

## DUELLING IS SPORT IN CUBA.

Only One Fatal Casualty in Seventeen Years.—Precautions Taken.

Duelling and cock fighting are the distinctive sports of Cuba (base ball, though popular, is exotic), but while cock fighting is the sport of all, from the highest to the lowest, duelling is confined to the "caballeros," who wear coats, says a Havana letter to the New York Evening Post. The coatless toilers of the city and the agriculturalists who wear their shirts outside, like the Philippine "hombré" of naval song, must content themselves with the plebian entertainment of the cock-pit.

Since the restoration of the republic of Cuba Libre under President Gomez, cock fighting, abolished by the first intervention, has been lawful; duelling is still prohibited, but the newspapers publish the texts of challenges and the results of meetings, with the names of principals and seconds, much as though they were boxing bouts or baseball games.

Among the friends of the writer is a prominent congressman who has taken part, either as second or principal, in thirty-two duels, and the speaker of the house, Signor Orestes Ferrara, is credited with anywhere from one to two score of duels, besides enjoying the distinction of taking part as a second in the only fatal duel in the last seventeen years, during which there have been some hundreds of duels "fought," or perhaps "played" would be the better word.

## Really a Refined Sport.

Duelling as conducted in Cuba is really a refined sport, not nearly so brutal or painful to the participants as boxing, and far less dangerous than baseball or tennis; sprained ankles are unknown in duelling, and quarrelling such as too frequently leads to violence and serious bodily injury at the cockpit is never permitted on the field of honor, where the greatest precautions are taken for the safety of all concerned. And no less than the safety is the dignity of the sport safeguarded by the Cuban code, which leaves no opportunity for such a reduction ad absurdum as that of the giant rail-splitter Lincoln naming cavalry sabres of the heaviest pattern when challenged by the pigmy Shields.

Unlike the code which prevailed in England and Ireland, and in our own South prior to the Civil war, the Cuban code gives the choice of weapons not to the challenged, but to the aggrieved party. It is for the seconds representing the challenger and challenged to determine, after full discussion, which is the aggrieved one (agraviado), after which the seconds of the latter shall choose the weapons, but within the restrictions of the code, which does not permit too serious a form of combat if the grievance be a slight one. Thus, pistols may not be used unless the quarrel is very serious indeed, as there is always the danger that even the best shot may in the excitement of the moment hit his antagonist in a vital spot. To minimize so far as may be the consequences of such accidents, the pistols are loaded very lightly, but, even so, the pistol is considered a risky weapon, to be resorted to only in extreme cases.

## A Drop of Blood Suffices.

The duelling sword is the weapon almost invariably used, and a drop of blood from a prick in the forearm of one's enemy usually suffices to heal the wound that honor feels. Fencing is a part of every young caballero's polite education, and there are a number of "salones de armas" in Havana, where the young men learn and practice fencing.

Cuba has probably the best amateur swordsman in the world in Major Ramon Fonst, master-of-arms of the Cuban army. When only eighteen Fonst won the amateur championship of the world with the duelling sword at the Paris exposition, defeating representatives of France, Italy, and Spain. A year or two later he defeated all who met him at the St. Louis World's Fair. Fonst was designed by nature for a fencer. Six feet tall and lean as a grayhound, he has narrow, sloping shoulders, and long arms with muscles of steel. His hips are considerably broader than his shoulders, and his long legs are very powerful, enabling him on occasion to escape dangerous lunges by phenomenal backward leaps. But the most striking thing about him is his eyes, which are strangely large and prominent, suggesting exceptional power and scope of vision. Possessing such prestige as a swordsman, Fonst is often asked to act as a second but as a principal is not in much demand.

## Sought by Politicians.

Aside from the farces between college boys, to whom an "affair of honor" ("lance de honor") seems necessary to mark the full attainment of man's estate, most Cuban duels are fought by politicians, particularly legislators, and newspaper men. The duel's chief function would seem to be the shielding of the truth from indecent exposure, a sort of protest against the nude in statement, any

## COW HAD RABIES.

Animal Owned by J. E. Attaway, Bitten by Dog, Killed.

On Sunday afternoon J. E. Attaway, of near town, killed one of his milk cows on account of her having rabies. The cow was bitten by a mad dog several weeks ago. A few days ago she began acting queer. The negroes who had her in charge thought she was sick and gave her medicine, one or two of the negroes putting their hands in the cow's mouth the day before she was killed. It is said that they are considerably frightened and are thinking of going to Columbia for the pasteur treatment.

At the same time when the cow was bitten, several dogs were also bitten by the mad dog, and have since been killed.—Saluda Standard.

## Oldest Living Thing.

One of the wonders of the ancient world, and probably the greatest of them, was the pyramids of Egypt. And yet some of the giant sequoias of California that are now thrifty trees had bark on them a foot thick when Cheops began building the great pyramid that bears his name. Beneath the shadow of the pyramids Napoleon said to his troops: "Forty centuries look down upon you." In the shadow of the big trees of California one might say: "Eighty centuries look down upon you." There are trees in the grove estimated by scientists, among them John Muir, the eminent naturalist, to be 8,000 and even 10,000 years old.

The oldest living things in the world today are these giant trees. Also the species of vegetation to which they belong is the oldest in the world. The sequoia tree, exactly like that of California, flourished several millions of years ago. We know that because we find their fossil remains buried beneath thousands of feet of rock, and geologists are able, by reading the leaves of those rocks as an ordinary man would read a book, to tell when the sequoias beneath them lived.—Kansas City Star.

## Definition of Memory.

The dangers of premature peace were put very graphically by Lord Rosebery the other day when he said that such peace "would mean a short peace and a war that would be even worse than this to follow."

Lord Rosebery is noted for his smart repartee. Some time ago he was talking to a friend on the subject of memory.

"What is memory?" asked his friend.

"Memory," answered his lordship, thoughtfully, "is the feeling that steals over us when we listen to our friends' original stories."

legislator or editor who dares tell the naked truth about public men or measures, as Senator Mazary Artola did recently about the notorious squandering of the public moneys on sinecures and the no less notorious venality of the press, must be prepared to answer for his words on the field of honor, even though, in the case of a legislator, the words be uttered in debate on the floor of the house or the senate. Many measures that would not bear too close analysis are thus enabled to reach a vote unchallenged.

While from what has been said it may be inferred that the duel as practiced in Cuba is not a brutal or a dangerous sport, some risk may attend the impertinent participation of foreigners in the national pastime. During the Ten Year's war a Spanish editor was killed in a duel by a Cuban, and in the only fatal duel of the last seventeen years a young American, named Warren, was the victim. A quarrel between Warren and a wealthy young Cuban named Mesa, had led to the caning of the latter by Warren. Mesa challenged Warren, and the seconds, one of whom on behalf of Mesa was Orestes Ferrara, speaker of the house of representatives, found that Mesa was the aggrieved party, and pistols were chosen to avenge the affront. Warren was a heavy youth, nearly six feet in height and half as much in breadth, and was exceedingly near-sighted. Mesa is small and slender and a winner of prizes in amateur pistol tournaments. Friends of Warren have said that at the distance selected, ten paces, he could see his antagonist only as a mere blur. At the first fire Mesa placed his bullet right in the centre of the huge target, and Warren died of peritonitis.

A dispute on the floor of the house or the senate, or any other quarrel among caballeros that is likely to lead to a duel, is invariably described by the newspapers as an "incident," and its sequel is duly chronicled. Notwithstanding the occasional casualties, insurance actuaries seem to consider duelling a healthful exercise conducive to longevity, making the inveterate battler on the field of honor a better risk on the whole than the sedentary pacifist.

## 50,000 GUARD BORDER.

Funston Completes Plan for Patrol Which He Hopes Will End Raids.

San Antonio, Texas, May 14.—Gen. Funston tonight had practically completed plans for reorganization of the border patrol, which, he believes, will put an end to border raids. Details of the proposed redistribution of the troops were not made public, but it is understood that those along the boundary will be divided into three divisions, with Brig. Gen. James Parker, Brig. Gen. William A. Mann and Brig. Gen. Harry A. Green acting as district commanders.

With the State troops of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and additional regular army troops being mobilized Gen. Funston will have approximately fifty thousand men. By the end of this week he plans to have the entire force in shape and position for service.

It is improbable that more troops will be sent to Col. Sibley, who is in charge of the little expedition that crossed into Mexico near Boquillas as a result of the raid at Glenn Springs and Boquillas a week ago. Four troops of cavalry and a machine gun detachment are operating close to the line, scouting throughout a limited territory south of the border, but it was stated there never has been any intention of sending forward at that point a punitive expedition that would compare in size to that Gen. Pershing. If the cavalry operating south of Boquillas fails to locate any bandits within a few days its return to stations north of the line is probable.

## Watching the Mexicans.

Army officers here are deeply interested, however, in the efforts the Mexican troops were reported to be making to run down the bandits who raided the Big Bend district and who still hold as a prisoner Jesse Deemers, an American storekeeper. It is regarded here as not impossible that the Mexican troops may cut off the retreat toward the interior and force the bandits back into the lines of Col. Sibley's cavalry.

With the exception of the attempt to destroy a part of the buildings at Fort Bliss last night, no unusual incidents were reported to general headquarters today. Gen. Bell, reporting the incident to Gen. Funston, expressed the opinion that the fires were of incendiary origin. Gen. Funston ordered an investigation.

With the exception of the 30th and 3rd infantry, one battalion of the 3rd field artillery and one company coast artillery, all the additional troops ordered to report to Gen. Funston have arrived.

The militiamen will be mustered into the regular military establishment Tuesday. Medical officers who have been examining the men stated that the percentage to be rejected because of physical condition will be negligible. Some have protested against being sworn in "for the term of entrenchment," but it is expected that at least 85 per cent. will enter the service without protest.

Marathon, Texas, May 14.—Another raid into American territory by Mexican bandits was made Friday night at McKinney Springs ranch, sixty-seven miles south of Marathon, and twenty-three miles of north of Boquillas, along the Marathon-Boquillas road, according to H. E. Stafford, an attorney of El Paso. Mr. Stafford arrived here late today from Boquillas, to which place he had accompanied Major Langhorne last Saturday as a guide. He secured his information from ranchmen in McKinney Springs as he was passing through there en route to Marathon today. There was no shooting, he said.

## Slept on the Job.

They tell the following story of a New York physician, who as an interne in a Chicago hospital some years ago incidentally held his own with a crowd of rather gay friends.

One morning the interne awoke to find that he had sadly overslept. Half dazed, he put on his clothes, and made his way to the hospital. The first patient was a big Irishman.

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked the sleepy interne, as he stifled a yawn and took his patient by the hand to get his pulse.

"It's me lungs, doc," said the man. "They're in a bad way. I can't get me breath at all."

"Your pulse is normal, but let me examine the lung action a moment," replied the doctor, kneeling beside the cot. "Now talk a bit," he continued, closing his eyes and listening attentively for sounds of pulmonary congestion.

"What shall I say?"

"Oh, anything. Count one, two, three, and so on," murmured the interne, drowsily.

"Wan, two, three, four, five, six," began the patient.

When the interne, with a start, opened his eyes, the Celt was counting huskily, nine hundred and sixty-nine, nine hundred and seventy, nine hundred and seventy-one, nine hundred and seventy-two.

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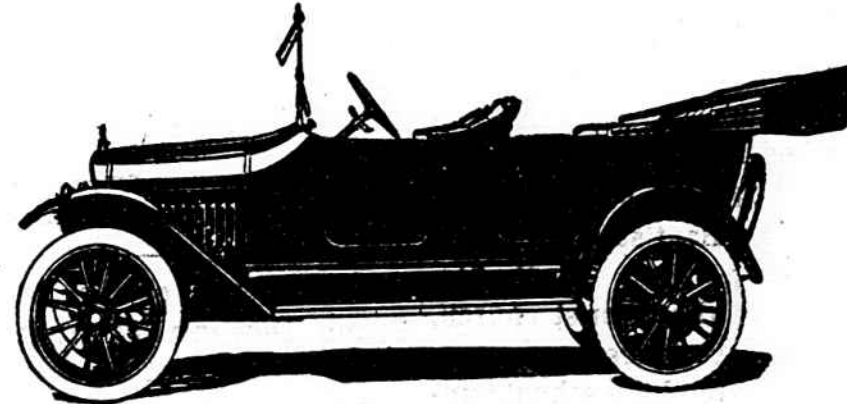
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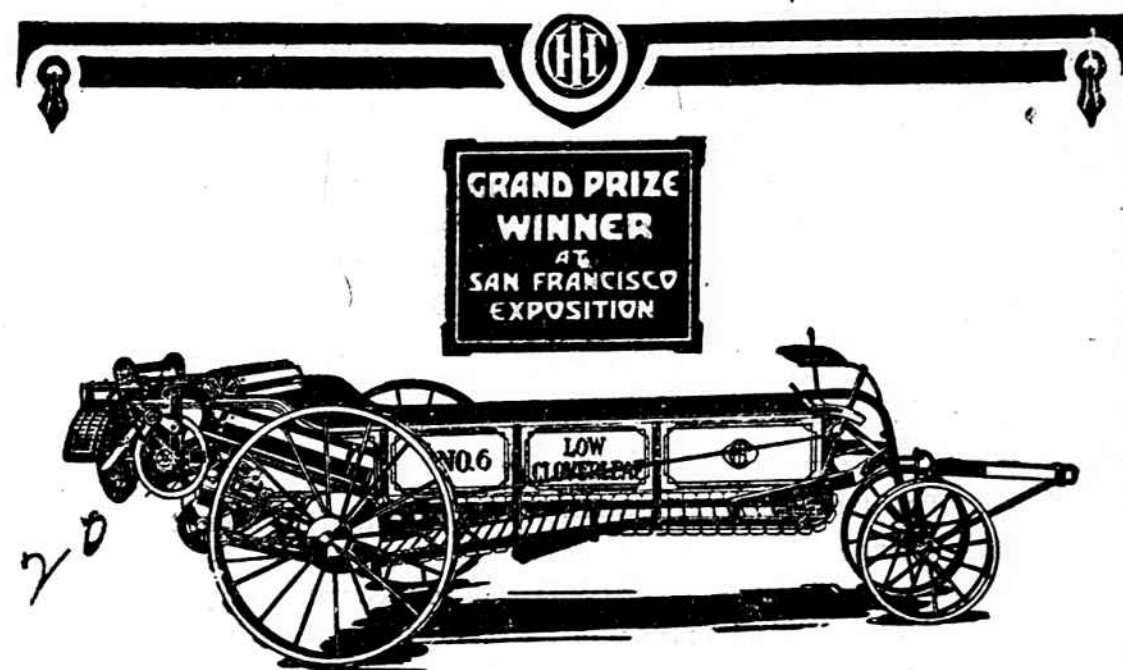


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